Ban on private blood banks

72. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to ban private blood bank throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the date from which the proposed ban is likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No Sir. The position is that the National Blood Policy, 2002 stipulates that "fresh licenses to stand-alone blood banks in the private sector shall not be granted. Renewal of such blood banks shall be subjected to thorough scrutiny and shall not be renewed in case of non-compliance of any condition of license".

In pursuance of this stipulation, we would need to amend the relevant provisions in the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, after which fresh licenses would not be granted to stand-alone blood banks in the private sector.

This stipulation does not apply to the existing blood banks holding valid licenses and complying with the conditions of license.

Management of medical waste

73. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently a Parliamentary Committee has pointed out, in its report, instances of serious lapses on the part of the Government Hospitals and private nursing homes in the matter of management of biomedical wastes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee?